



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY GARRISON HEIDELBERG
UNIT 29237
APO AE 09102**

IMEU-HEI-PW

MEMORANDUM FOR See Distribution

30 JUN 2006

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes, Environmental Quality Control Committee, 6 Jun 06

1. On 6 June 2006, 1330 hrs, Mr. Patrick Griffin, Acting Environmental Division Chief for the USAG Heidelberg, welcomed all attendees at the Tompkins Barracks training facility located in building 4219, and provided a short overview of the meeting agenda. He then asked the Chairman and USAG Heidelberg Commander, COL Willie Gaddis, for opening remarks.
2. COL Gaddis thanked the attendees for the good work they have been doing, as was reflected in the February 2006 IMA-E Environmental Performance Assessment (EPAS). Next he briefly addressed the budgeting uncertainties the military is currently experiencing. COL Gaddis commented positively on the 2006 Earth Week activities but stated that they could be improved upon by advertising the event earlier, by higher media presence and by soliciting unit/organization participation further in advance. He then turned the floor over to the Environmental Division (ED) staff for the briefing.
3. Mr. Brian Colabella presented a summary with pictures of the Earth Week activities that took place at Heidelberg and Germersheim installations. COL Gaddis addressed the committee and requested that they already start thinking about possible events for the 2007 Earth Week. Both he and Mr. Tafoya, USAG Heidelberg Chief of Staff, requested that an After Action Report (AAR) be prepared, as it will help to identify shortfalls in the 2006 campaign. Mr. Tafoya suggested that more emphasis be placed on energy conservation and recycling projects because saving money in the utilities arena will be an important topic in the time ahead.
4. Ms Yvonne Lamy provided an overview of the financial status of the environmental program. She explained Class 0 and Class 1 requirements, listed funded and unfunded projects for the Heidelberg community and took a look ahead at the (proposed) FY07 VENC funding distribution. The currently low obligation rates were discussed and Ms Lamy pointed out that new regulations and requirements are delaying the obligation of committed funds.
5. The status of the Environmental Performance Assessment findings was presented by Ms Lamy as well. The final report was received from IMA-E today and has not yet been reviewed. Of 81 findings originally identified, 38 % have been completed.

IMEU-HEI-PW

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes, Environmental Quality Control Committee, 6 Jun 06

6. Since the Hazardous Substances Manager, Mr. Henning, was unavailable, Mr. Marty Hanson (contractor) briefed the latest information in the media area. The Centralized Hazardous Waste Storage Area, bldg 184 at Patton Barracks, has been completed and will go into operations once the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been signed and all pertinent personnel have been trained. Mr. Tafoya reminded that the SOP needs to contain all information the hazardous waste (HW) handlers will need such as opening hours, types of HW accepted, maximum amounts, etc. COL Gaddis also insisted that the SOP and training be provided prior to opening the facility. The possibility of bringing HW from other installations to this facility was questioned by CW5 Seale (AFOD). The OSJA committee members, Ms. Zach and Ms. Bomier, will research the legal aspects and provide input to the ED staff.

a. Since IMA-E can no longer fund on-site training for Environmental Compliance Officers (ECO) or HW handlers, IMA-E had a web-based training course developed, the BETA version of which can be accessed and tested via a link on the ED web page. COL Gaddis stated that for initial training he prefers face-to-face training and that web-based training should be offered only as refresher or additional training. He requested that ED contact IMA-E to further research the issue.

b. Mr. Hanson announced upcoming training dates and explained the availability of on-request on-site training in units and organizations. The next Awareness Training will be held on 21 Jun 06 from 9:00 - 11:30 and will include info on HM/HW, EMS & Asbestos.

7. Mr. Johannes Haid gave a very brief explanation of different asbestos classifications and informed about the findings of a recently completed asbestos resurvey in Army Family Housing (AFH) structures. In 15 of 36 bldgs, contamination with asbestos fibers was found in attic areas; the rooms have been closed off, abatement cost would be approx. \$900K. Next a resurvey will be conducted in 140 bldgs at GAD, Campbell Barracks and Nachrichten Kaserne between 15 May and 31 Aug 06.

8. The newly appointed Community Cultural Resources Manager, Ms. Anja Emmenecker, presented a brief look at some of the protected cultural sites (buildings) in the community and explained host nation approval procedures necessary for performing maintenance and repair work in these facilities.

9. Ms Katherina Diemer presented an Environmental Management System (EMS) update, again stating that the EPAS final report had been received just hours earlier. She announced upcoming senior leadership training, announced Mr. Tafoya to be the newly appointed EMS Management Representative and talked about anticipated new IMA-E metrics. She also explained the integration of a HW Environmental Management Program into the EMS process as a fourth significant aspect. She and Mr. Henning are developing the SOP for the centralized HW storage area at Patton.


IMEU-HEI-PW

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes, Environmental Quality Control Committee, 6 Jun 06

10. In the following open discussion a number of concerns of committee members about various media areas were discussed. Mr. Tafoya again stressed the importance of raising public awareness through community updates, articles in the Herald Post and on the various web sites to educate community members on environmental issues, to include cost saving potentials in the areas of energy and water consumption as well as recycling. Mr. Larry Ryan, Director of Public Works, underlined the fact that environmental requirements and programs are everyone's concerns and not, like often assumed, just the ED staff's business.

11. In his closing remarks Mr Tafoya stated that he would like to see all of the AICs at the next EQCC, he reminded everyone to start thinking of Earth Day 2007 events and thanked all for attending.

12. POC at USAG Heidelberg ED is Ms Blades, DSN 387-3145, astrid.blades2@us.army.mil


WILLIE E. GADDIS
COL, AV
Commanding

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IMEU-HEI-PW

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes, Environmental Quality Control Committee, 6 Jun 06

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IMEU-HEI-PW

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes, Environmental Quality Control Committee, 6 Jun 06

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IMEU-HEI-PW

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes, Environmental Quality Control Committee, 6 Jun 06

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